

Oshima lies 100 miles or more further north, and very near the main island of Japan; but Dr. Stejneger's measurements are:—Exposed culmen .55 inch, wing 2.45 inches.

The examples from Fatsizio are so much larger than those from Sulphur Island that they cannot belong to the same species.

XXVII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 143.]

31. *Blasius on the Birds of Great Sanghir and Siao.*

[Die Vögel von Gross-Sanghir (mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der in den Jahren 1886 und 1887 von Herrn Dr. Platen und dessen Gemahlin bei Manganitu auf Gross-Sanghir ausgeführten ornitholog. Forschungen), nebst einem Anhang über die Vögel von Siao. Von Prof. Dr. Wilh. Blasius. Ornith. iv. p. 527.]

Dr. Blasius commences his essay on the birds of the Sanghir Islands, which lie between the north point of Celebes and the southern extremity of Mindanao, with a critical review of previous authorities on the subject. The last summary of the Ornithology of these islands was that of Dr. A. B. Meyer, who, in 1884, assigned 62 species to Great Sanghir, and 39 to Siao. The researches of Dr. Platen and his wife on Great Sanghir have increased our knowledge of the avifauna of this island, and raised the total number of known species to 71. Of these Dr. Blasius gives us a complete account in the present memoir, with full particulars of the specimens in the Brunswick Museum. Twelve species (1 Parrot and 11 Passeres) are, so far as is yet known, restricted to Great Sanghir and the adjacent islands.

In an appendix, Dr. Blasius speaks of the birds of Siao, which lies to the south of Great Sanghir, and nearer Celebes. Here 40 species are known to occur, five of which are not found in Great Sanghir. One of these (*Pitta palliceps*) is peculiar to the island.

At the end of the memoir Dr. Blasius discusses the avifauna of the Sanghir Islands as a whole, and shows that it is really

most nearly akin to that of Celebes. Of the 50 species which remain, after deducting those of wide distribution, more than half are restricted to the Sanghir group; of the remainder, 10 are also found in Celebes, while only 3 are Philippine species. Moreover, the peculiar species in most cases have their nearest allies in Celebes.

Macropygia sanghirensis, *Zosterops nehrkorni*, and *Criniger platenæ* are figured.

32. Chapman on Birds from British Columbia.

[On a Collection of Birds made by Mr. Clark P. Streator in British Columbia, with Field Notes by the Collector. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. iii. p. 123.]

Mr. Streator went to British Columbia in 1889, and made a collection of about 1000 specimens of birds for the American Museum of Natural History. These are referred by Mr. Chapman to 160 species, and the collector's field-notes are given. Mr. Streator's seven localities were partly on the coast, where the rainfall is excessive and the forest is dense, and partly in the interior, east of the coast-range, where the climate is dry and the vegetation scanty. In the prefatory remarks, Mr. Chapman makes some interesting observations on the different avifaunas of these two districts, and gives a comparative table of the coast-forms and their representatives in the interior. In 31 cases these "north-west-coast forms" have been differentiated from their congeners, and have become "darker and more richly coloured, or more heavily barred or streaked."

33. Clarke on Birds from Hudson's Bay.

[On a Collection of Birds from Fort Churchill, Hudson's Bay. By W. Eagle Clarke. 'The Auk,' vii. p. 319.]

Mr. W. Eagle Clarke gives an account of a collection presented to the Edinburgh Museum in 1845 by Dr. Gillespie, Jr., which had been made by him during his residence at Fort Churchill, Hudson's Bay, formerly the most northerly outpost of civilized man's residence on the shores of this great inland sea. The specimens are referred to 77 species, and named according to the A. O. U. Check-list.

34. *Dubois's Report on the Ornithological Observations made in Belgium in 1887-8-9.*

[Compte rendu des Observations ornithologiques faites en Belgique pendant les années 1887 à 1889, publié sous la direction du Dr. Alphonse Dubois. *Ornis*, 1890, p. 287.]

The reports on the Ornithology of Belgium originally commenced in 1842, under the superintendence of M. Ad. Quetelet, were discontinued after his death in 1874. They were recommenced in 1885 by Dr. Dubois, at the request of the International Ornithological Committee, and the reports for 1885 and 1886 were published in the 'Bulletin' of the Royal Museum of Natural History of Brussels. They are now appropriately transferred to the pages of '*Ornis*.' After a short description of the topography of the additional stations, observations on 194 species are given in systematic order.

35. *Godman and Salvin's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[*Biologia Centrali-Americana*; or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. Du Cane Godman and Osbert Salvin. (Zoology.) Parts LXVII.-XC. 4to. London: 1888-90. Published for the Editors by R. H. Porter, 10 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.]

It is now nearly three years since we recorded the progress of the '*Biologia Centrali-Americana*,' one of the most important zoological works of the period*. During these three years 24 parts of the *Biologia* have been issued, and have carried on the section relating to the Birds nearly to the end of the Oligomyodæ. The families treated of in the letterpress are the Oxyrhamphidæ (with 1 Central-American species), the Tyrannidæ (with 105 species), and the Pipridæ (with 13 species), as also the subfamily Tityrinæ of the Cotingidæ. The arrangement adopted in the fourteenth volume of the Catalogue of Birds is generally followed, but many improvements are made, as might have been expected from the authors' intimate acquaintance with their subject. Their information as regards the Central-American species

* See *Ibis*, 1888, p. 270.

of these groups has been vastly increased by the numerous specimens received from their collectors in every part of Mexico.

One new genus of Tyrannidæ is founded—*Myiopagis* for *Elainea placens* (vol. ii. p. 26) ; and two species of the same family are described as new, *Empidonax canescens* from Central Mexico (vol. ii. p. 79), and *Myiarchus inquietus* (ii. p. 88) from the State of Guerrero, Mexico. Among the Tityrinæ, two new species (*Tityra pelzelni* from Matto Grosso, Brazil, and *T. buckleyi* from Ecuador) are described in footnotes.

The following species are figured :—

Tyrannulus semiflavus ; *Leptotriccus superciliaris* ; *Elainea arenarum* ; *Sirystes albogriseus* ; *Myiarchus flammulatus* ; *Myiodynastes hemichrysus* ; *Contopus ochraceus* ; *Muscivora mexicana* ; *Myiobius capitalis* ; *Empidonax albigularis* ; *E. atriceps* ; *Chiomachæris aurantiaca* ; *Piprites griseiceps* ; *Carpodectes nitidus* ; *Pachyrhamphus cinereiventris* ; and *P. albogriseus*.

36. Grieg on a new Hybrid Grouse.

[*Lagopus urogallo-albus*. Ein neuer Moorschneehuhn-Bastard. Von James A. Grieg. Bergens Mus. Aarsberetning, 1889.]

The author describes and figures a new case of hybridism in the Grouse, between *Lagopus albus* ♂ and *Tetrao urogallus* ♀. The specimen was obtained from a dealer in Bergen, who received it from the province of Nordland, Norway.

37. Grieg on the Birds of the Husa Islands.

[En zoologisk ekskursjon til Husöen. Ved James A. Grieg. Bergens Mus. Aarsberetning, 1889.]

In the summer of 1889 Mr. Grieg, accompanied by a collector, visited the Husa Islands, which lie on the extreme west coast of Norway, outside the Sogne Fiord, and obtained examples of about 40 species of birds, of which a list, with notes, is given.

38. *Hartert's Ornithological Notices.*

[Ornithologische Notizen. Von Ernst Hartert. J. f. O. 1890, p. 100.]

Herr Hartert remarks on the occurrence of *Surnia ulula* in Germany, and on its having been apparently in some cases confused with *Asio accipitrinus*. He also provides a Crested Lark from Abyssinia in the Frankfort Museum with a new name, *Galerida rueppelli*, and describes a new species of *Otocorys* from "Caffraria" as *O. berlepschi*.

39. *Heine and Reichenow on the Birds of the Museum Heineanum.*

[Nomenclator Musei Heineani Ornithologici. Verzeichniss der Vogel-Sammlung des Königlichen Oberamtmanns Ferdinand Heine, herausgegeben von Ferdinand Heine und Anton Reichenow. Royal 8vo. Berlin: 1882-90.]

Messrs. Heine and Reichenow have now finished their catalogue of the birds in the celebrated "Museum Heineanum" at Halberstadt, the first portion of which was printed in 1882. The catalogue pursues the order and nomenclature of the well-known ornithological work bearing the same title as the Museum, so far as it goes—*i. e.*, to the middle of the Scansores. After that it follows the lines of the original MS. catalogue prepared by Herr F. Heine, Senior, who, we are pleased to hear, is still active, in his 81st year—the Nestor of living ornithologists. The preface is written by Herr Reichenow. The "types" of the Heine Collection, which are many and important, are marked with an asterisk.

We regret to find, on looking through the last sheets, that the authors have troubled themselves to invent not less than 73 new generic terms, nearly all of which are exact equivalents of terms already in use. They are as follows:—

Geniates = *Chotorea*, Bp.; *Abelterus* = *Eubucco*, Bp.; *Pogonites* = *Buccanodon*, Verr.; *Dinorhamphus* = *Tucanus*, Cass.; *Machlostomus* = *Tucaius*, Bp.; *Ulocomus* = *Beauharnaisius*, Bp.; *Rhagoborus* = *Baillonius*, Cass.; *Pionites* = *Caica*, Less.; *Porphyrocephalus* = *Purpleicephalus*, Bp.; *Scototheres* = *Lempijiis*, Bp.; *Nyctimene* = *Macabra*, Bp.; *Tyto* = *Myrtha*, Bp.; *Tolmerus* = *Chiquera*, Bp.; *Gen-*

nadas = *Gennaea*, Kaup; *Elasas* = *Elanoides*, Vieill.; *Halinertus* = *Haliastur*, Selb.; *Tolmolestes* = *Spiziastur*, Less.; *Alectromorphnus* = *Buteogallus*, Less.; *Oronertus* = *Phalcobaenus*, Lafr.; *Coelotreron* = *Palumboena*, Bp.; *Tryzusa* = *Turturoenas*, Bp.; *Haploenas* = *Turacoena*, Bp.; *Coccyzoenas* = *Reinwardtoenas*, Bp.; *Rhamphotreron* = *Toria*, Hodgs.; *Terenotreron* = *Thouarsitreron*, Bp.; *Phassa* = *Rhamphiculus*, Bp.; *Poecilotreron* = *Sylphidoena*, Bp.; *Lep-topelia* = *Talpacotia*, Bp.; *Micropelia* = *Scardafella*, Bp.; *Pterygocys* = *Pterochirus*, Bp.; *Areortyx* = *Areoturnix*, Bp.; *Compsortyx* = *Excalfactoria*, Bp.; *Plectroperdix* = *Hepburnia*, Bp.; *Lochmophasis* = *Gallophasis*, Hodgs.; *Hydranassa* = *Demiegretta*, Baird; *Glaucerosodius* = *Florida*, Baird; *Doriponus* = *Agamia*, Rehb.; *Dupetor* = *Ardeiralla*, "Verr.," Bp.; *Sirycter*, type *S. cyanocephalus* (Mol.); *Mystrorhamphus* = *Ajaja*, Rehb.; *Parnopio* = *Hagedashia*, Bp.; *Lophophalaris* = *Lupha*, Bp.; *Pisynolimnas* = *Erythra*, Rehb.; *Sarothrura* = *Corethura*, Rehb.; *Ortygops* = *Coturnicops*, Bp.; *Donacophilus* = *Laterirallus*, Bp.; *Erythrolimnas* = *Rufirallus*, Bp.; *Galeolimnas* = *Mustelirallus*, Bp.; *Ortygonax*, type *O. rhytirhynchus* (Vieill.); *Donacias* = *Lewinia*, Bp.; *Calamodromus* = *Rougetius*, Bp.; *Compsotis* = *Afrotis*, Bp.; *Rhynchosimus* = *Terekia*, Bp.; *Aegialodes* = *Gambetta*, Kaup; *Actia* = *Arquatella*, Baird; *Lobibyx* = *Lobivanellus*, Rehb.; *Dilobus* = *Lobipluvia*, Bp.; *Hyetoceryx* = *Pluviorhynchus*, Bp.; *Rhimphalea* = *Stiltia*, Bp.; *Ptocas* = *Rufibrenta*, Bp.; *Gennaeochen* = *Radjah*, Rehb.; *Nettalopez* = *Casarca*, Bp.; *Adelonetta* = *Punanetta*, Bp.; *Ilyonetta* = *Nyroca*, Flemm.; *Prister*, type *P. brasiliensis* (Vieill.); *Abeltera* = *Sula*, Rehb.; *Gripeus* = *Graculus*, Rehb.; *Enygrotheres* = *Stictocarbo*, Bp.; *Potamocheilidon* = *Seena*, Bp.; *Einalia* = *Laroides*, Brehm; *Melanolarus* = *Melagavia*, Bp.; *Zalias* = *Thiellus*, Rehb.; *Cymatobolus* = *Majaqueus*, Rehb.; *Colymbetes* = *Poliocephalus*, Selby.

Out of these names, however, the following six have been already used in Zoology:—*Nyctimene*, Mammalia (1816); *Hydranassa*, Birds (1858); *Actia*, Diptera (1830); *Rhimphalea*, Lepidoptera (1863); *Colymbetes*, Colcoptera (1806); *Tolmerus*, Diptera (1849).

40. *Jameson's 'Story of the Rear Column.'*

[Story of the Rear Column of the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition. By the late James S. Jameson, Naturalist to the Expedition. Edited by Mrs. J. S. Jameson. With Portrait, Map, and Illustrations from the Author's Sketches. 8vo. London: 1890. R. H. Porter.]

Without going into the controversy about the "rear column," we may say that the plain and unvarnished tale told in the late Mr. Jameson's Journal fully explains several rather obscure points in the stories told against him. After reading it none of his brother naturalists will believe Mr. Jameson to have been guilty of the wanton cruelty that has been imputed to him, though he may have acted rather imprudently in a certain case.

An account of the collection of birds made by Jameson on the Aruwihimi has already been published by Capt. Shelley in this journal (*Ibis*, 1890, p. 156). In the 'Natural History Appendix' to the present volume, Mr. Sharpe gives a general account of Jameson's ornithological work, and adds a series of extracts from Jameson's diaries, which contain his field-notes on the birds of the Congo. It is stated that all the specimens considered to be of value to the British Museum have been presented by Mrs. Jameson to that institution.

41. *Leverkühn on former Pomeranian Bird-life.*

[Ueber eine alte pommersche Vogelfauna. Von Paul Leverkühn. Röhl, Zeitsch. f. Ornith. xiv. p. 134.]

The author extracts particulars as to the ancient bird-life of Pomerania from the sixth volume of Micräl's '*Alten Pomerland*,' published in 1640.

42. *Leverkühn on Variations in Colour in Birds.*

[Ueber Farbenvarietäten bei Vögeln. Von Paul Leverkühn. IV. (Aus den Museen in Amsterdam, Leiden, Haarlem, und Rotterdam.) J. f. O. 1890, p. 168.]

This is Herr Leverkühn's fourth essay on colour-varieties in birds, to which the author has paid special attention. It

is a subject of much interest, but in some respects its scientific value has, perhaps, been rather overestimated. Albinism, so far as we understand it, may occur in any living creature, and we are not sure that it is necessary to record its occurrence in every case. On the other hand, the hybridism which is so prevalent among the Anseres is of great interest, and Herr Leverkühn's long list of recorded instances of this phenomenon makes a useful conclusion to his paper.

43. Lucas on an Expedition to Funk Island.

[The Expedition to the Funk Island, with Observations upon the History and Anatomy of the Great Auk. By Fred. A. Lucas. Rep. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887-88, p. 493.]

Mr. Lucas visited Funk Island, on the eastern coast of Newfoundland, celebrated as one of the former breeding-places of *Alca impennis*, in the U.S. Fish-Commission steamer 'Grampus,' in July 1887, and gives us a most interesting narrative of his expedition, of which, however, a popular account, it seems, has been previously published*. On the southern half of Funk Island "the Auk bred in peace, undisturbed by man, until that fateful day in June 1534, when Cartier's crews inaugurated the slaughter, which only terminated with the existence of the Great Auk."

Here "myriads of Garefowl lie buried in the shallow soil formed above their moldered bodies"—it is "no exaggeration to say that millions of Garefowl gave up their lives on these few acres of barren rock."

After their two days' stay on Funk Island, Mr. Lucas and his party "brought away 2 cubic feet of earth, as nearly as possible undisturbed, in order to show the bones *in situ*, a barrel of Auk remains gathered along the crest of the island, and nearly another barrel of select material, containing the best-preserved bones that could be found."

"The disposition so far made of this material is as follows: a perfect skeleton has been placed in the exhibition series of

* "The Home of the Great Auk." 'Popular Science Monthly,' August, 1888, pp. 456-464.

the U.S. National Museum, one has been presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and another to the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

"One specimen, sent in exchange to a well-known London dealer in natural-history material, has found its way to the Museum of Science and Art, Edinburgh, and another has been sent in exchange to the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales. Two skeletons are retained for the reserve-series, U.S. National Museum, and three or four, less complete, can still be made up from the bones remaining, while there is besides a large number of individual bones, good, bad, and indifferent, left for study."

Mr. Lucas concludes his memoir with a study of the individual variation met with in the bones thus obtained, which is exhibited in a series of elaborate tables, and finally with a carefully compiled bibliography of the Great Auk.

44. Meyer on *Pelecanus molinæ*.

[*Pelecanus molinæ*, Gray. Von A. B. Meyer. J. f. O. 1890, p. 165.]

The Dresden Museum has received an example of *Pelecanus molinæ* from near Callao (Dr. Stübel), and Dr. Meyer takes the opportunity of vindicating its distinctness from *P. fuscus*. There is, however, as Dr. Meyer says, still much to be learned about the different plumages of this Pelican, one phase of which has been named *P. barbieri* by Oustalet (cf. Salvin, Ibis, 1879, p. 98).

45. North on the Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds.

[Australian Museum, Sydney. (Catalogue No. 12.) Descriptive Catalogue of the Nests and Eggs of Birds found Breeding in Australia and Tasmania. By A. J. North, F.L.S. Sydney: 1890.]

The object of this catalogue, as the author informs us in his preface, is to give authentic descriptions of the nests and eggs of the birds that have been found breeding in Australia, Tasmania, and the adjacent islands. It refers especially to the specimens in the Collection of the Australian Museum, Sydney, and has been prepared by Mr. A. J. North, an Assistant in the Zoological Department of that Museum.

The systematic arrangement followed is that of Gould's 'Handbook,' and, except in the case of species subsequently discovered, references are given only to that work. Of the 469 species treated of in the volume, the author has personally examined specimens of all except 34, the information concerning which is taken from Gould's 'Handbook.'

The 21 plates attached to the volume illustrate the eggs of 176 species. They are reproductions by the heliotype process of negatives taken from the specimens in the Museum, and seem to deserve much commendation. Although this plan does not give us the colour of the eggs, the exact spots and blotches, so difficult for an artist to render faithfully, are thus, of course, accurately given.

46. Oates's '*Birds of British India.*'

[The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Published under the authority of the Secretary of State for India in Council. Edited by W. T. Blanford. Birds: Vol. II. By Eugene W. Oates. 8vo. Pp. i-x, 1-407. London: Taylor and Francis, 1890.]

The second volume of Mr. Oates's excellent handbook of the Birds of India carries on the subject to the end of the Passeres. It is much to be regretted that Mr. Oates has been refused the additional leave of absence which he would necessarily require in order to complete the work. But it is a great satisfaction under the circumstances to know that Mr. Blanford has himself undertaken the task, and will proceed with it as soon as he has got out the second half of the Mammals.

In the present volume Mr. Oates treats of the Muscipidæ, Turdidæ, Ploceidæ, Fringillidæ, Hirundinidæ, Motacillidæ, Alaudidæ, Nectariniidæ, Dicaeidæ, and Pittidæ. This sequence of families will appear rather extraordinary, but we need not repeat our criticisms of Mr. Oates's new arrangement of the Passeres (*cf.* Ibis, 1890, p. 252).

A noteworthy discovery is that *Chalcoparia* does not belong to the Nectariniidæ, but to the Crateropodidæ, near *Myzornis* (*op. cit.* p. 372).

The following species are described as new in this volume:—

Terpsiphone nicobarica (p. 48), from the Andamans and Nicobars; *Saxicola barnesi* (p. 75), from Baluchistan; *Anthus cockburniæ* (p. 305), from the Nilgiris; and *Æthopyga andersoni* (p. 349), from Upper Burmah. A new genus, *Acmonorhynchus*, is proposed (p. 381) for *Prionochilus vincens*, Sclater, of Ceylon.

This volume is illustrated by 108 very useful woodcuts.

47. *Olphe-Galliard on the Usefulness of Birds.*

[Sur l'Utilité des Oiseaux. Recueil par Léon Olphe-Galliard. Bull. Soc. d'Études Hautes-Alpes, 1890, No. 35.]

The ardent ornithologist of Southern France has put together in this pamphlet (extracted from the 'Bulletin de la Société d'Études des Hautes-Alpes') several translations from the Swedish and other articles upon the ever increasing duty that we owe to ourselves and our posterity to preserve bird-life of every sort. Every year we hear of the extermination of more species, and unless we take heed in time the ornithology of the world bids fair to become reduced to the Pheasant and the Sparrow.

48. *Palmer on Birds observed during the Cruise of the 'Grampus' in 1887.*

[Notes on the Birds observed during the Cruise of the United States Fish-Commission Schooner 'Grampus' in the Summer of 1887. By William Palmer. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiii. p. 249.]

Mr. Palmer accompanied the U.S. Fish-Commission schooner 'Grampus' during her summer cruise of 1887, for the purpose of observing and collecting fish-eating birds and their eggs and young. The localities visited were on the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador. Examples of aquatic species were observed or obtained, besides some land-birds. Many interesting field-notes are given on the aquatic species.

49. *Parker on the Morphology of Ducks and Auks.*

[Royal Irish Academy. Cunningham Memoirs.—No. VI. On the Morphology of the Duck and the Auk Tribes. By W. Kitchen Parker, F.R.S. With nine Plates. Dublin: 1890.]

This elaborate memoir on the osteology of the Anatidæ and Alcidae was in course of being printed, when the sudden death of the author took place (on July 3rd, 1890). We do not quite understand why the two families were studied together, for, as is confessed in the prefatory remarks, they are "very distantly related." The Alcidae, as Parker states, "lie in the centre, so to speak, of a considerable number of families of water-birds, and are manifestly related to the Grebes and Loons, birds that seem to be the modified descendants of *Hesperornis*." At the same time they are "quite as nearly akin" on the other side to the Penguins. As regards the Anatidæ, Parker does not commit himself nearly so definitely. But, as he has hinted in previous papers, the Ducks "evidently come from a stock closely related to that from which the Fowl-tribe sprung."

50. *Pleske on the Birds of Prjevalsky's Journeys in Central Asia.*

[Wissenschaftliche Resultate der von N. M. Przewalski nach Central-Asien unternommenen Reisen. Auf Kosten einer von seiner kaiserlichen Hoheit dem Grossfürsten thronfolger Nikolai Alexandrowitsch gespendeten summe herausgegeben von der kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Zoologischer Theil. Band II., Vögel. Bearbeitet von Th. Pleske. Lief. 2. Folio. St. Petersburg: 1890.]

We have now before us the second part of this important work, the object and inception of which have been already spoken of (see *Ibis*, 1890, p. 256). Part II. is chiefly devoted to the Sylvian, Timeliine, and Accentorine Passeres. A new genus, *Lophobasileus*, is proposed for the *Leptopæcile elegans* of Prjevalsky.

The following species are figured in this part:—

Plate II. *Phylloscopus tristis*, *P. tristis* var. *sindiana*, *Reguloides superciliosus* var. *mandellii*.

Plate IV. *Pratincola maura* var. *przewalskii*, *Accentor alpinus* var. *rufilatus*.

Plate V. Eggs of *Turdus auritus*, *Merula kessleri*, *Saxicola deserti*, *S. montana*, *Ruticilla frontalis*, *R. schisticeps*, *Dumeticola thoracica*, *Acrocephalus turdoides* var. *orientalis*, *Calliope tschebaiewi*, *Herbivocula armandi*.

Plate VI. *Lophobasileus elegans*, *Leptopæcile sophie*, *L. obscura*.

51. Ridgway on the "Farallon" Rail.

[Observations on the Farallon Rail (*Porzana jamaicensis coturniculus*, Baird). By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiii. p. 309.]

Mr. Ridgway has studied the unique example of the Farallon Rail, *Porzana jamaicensis coturniculus* of Baird, stated to have been obtained in the Farallon Islands, near San Francisco. These islands have since been repeatedly searched, but are said to contain no spot suitable for Rails. It is therefore suspected that there may have been some mistake in the locality, and that the "Farallon Rail" may be *Porzana spilonota* of the Galapagos, which it certainly resembles more than *P. jamaicensis*.

52. Scott on the Birds of the Dry Tortugas.

[On Birds observed at the Dry Tortugas, Florida, during parts of March and April 1890. By W. E. D. Scott. The Auk, 1890, p. 301.]

The Dry Tortugas consist of a group of six coral islands, low and sandy, which lie some sixty miles west of Key West, between Cuba and Florida, as shown in the map accompanying this memoir. Mr. Scott made his headquarters at the Quarantine Station on Garden Key, in the centre of the group. Examples of 80 species of birds were obtained or observed. Of these 57 are land-birds, but none of them breed there. Six examples were obtained of *Dendræca dominica albilora*, the western form of *D. dominica* (which also occurred), during Mr. Scott's stay.

53. *Sharpe and Wyatt on the Hirundinidæ.*

[A Monograph of the Hirundinidæ, or Family of Swallows. By R. Bowdler Sharpe and Claude W. Wyatt. Parts XI.-XIV. 1889-90. 4to. London: Sotheran & Co.]

The Monograph of the Swallows makes slow but constant progress. Since we last noticed its advance, two double parts have been issued, dated respectively December 1889 and December 1890, so that, if the statements in the prospectus are adhered to, three or four more parts will complete the work.

The letterpress contains all that is known of the species treated of, and the plates are generally well designed and nicely coloured.

Parts XI. and XII. (December 1889) contain figures of the following species:—*Cheramæca leucosternum*, *Hirundo badia*, *H. hyperythra*, *H. puella*, *H. dimidiata*, *H. savignii*, *Cotile sinensis*, *Tachycineta cyaneoviridis*, *T. bicolor*, *Stelgidopteryx uropygialis*, *Atticora fasciata*, *A. cyanoleuca*, *Progne tapera*, also maps of the distribution of *Progne*, *Tachycineta*, and *Stelgidopteryx*.

Parts XIII. and XIV. (December 1890) contain figures of *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*, *P. swainsoni erythrogastra*, *P. spilodera*, *Cotile cincta*, *C. paludicola*, *Hirundo euchrysea*, *H. daurica*, *H. nipalensis*, *H. erythropygia*, *Chelidon nipalensis*, and *Tachycineta albiventris*.

Petrochelidon swainsoni erythrogastra is not a trinomial name, but that of a supposed hybrid between *Petrochelidon swainsoni* and *Hirundo erythrogastra*. We prefer Mr. Salvin's way of writing it, "*Hirundo erythrogastra* × *swainsoni* (cf. Ibis, 1888, p. 256).

54. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Water-birds.*

[Contributions to the Comparative Osteology of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Water-birds. Part VIII. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., C.M.Z.S., &c. Journ. Anat. & Physiol. xxv. p. 60.]

The eighth part of Dr. Shufeldt's "contributions" treats of the appendicular skeleton of the Laridæ and Stercorariidæ.

Remarks on the skull of *Rhynchops* follow, and a useful comparison of the skull of this very peculiar form with the cranium of the Laridæ. The author concludes with observations on the affinities of the Divers, Auks, and Gulls. The Auks (Alcæ) he proposes to divide into four families—Fraterculidæ, Phaleridæ, Alcidæ, and Allidæ.

55. *Smith on the Disappearance of Spiza americana.*

[On the Disappearance of the Dick Cissel (*Spiza americana*) from the District of Columbia. By Hugh M. Smith. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiii. p. 171.]

The "Dick Cissel" of the Americans (*Spiza americana*), formerly a regular summer visitor to the District of Columbia, appears to have been exterminated there. No specimens of this species have been obtained for thirty years, the last pair registered in the U.S. National Museum having been procured in May 1860. It has, however, been occasionally observed since that period, the last specimen noted having been seen in May 1887. It formerly nested regularly every year within the Smithsonian grounds.

56. *Stevenson and Southwell's 'Birds of Norfolk.'*

[The Birds of Norfolk, with Remarks on their Habits, Migration, and Local Distribution. By Henry Stevenson, F.L.S., continued by Thomas Southwell, F.Z.S. Vol. III. 8vo. London: 1890.]

The issue of this third volume completes a piece of good work, commenced by the late Henry Stevenson, and left unfinished since 1877, in consequence of his failing health. Mr. Southwell makes unnecessary apologies in his preface for undertaking the task, which he seems to have performed in a very satisfactory manner. Norfolk may now claim to have one of the best of the county histories of British Birds. The appendices to the present volume bring up our knowledge of the species recorded in the first two volumes to the present date.

57. *Stone on Birds collected in Yucatan and S. Mexico.*

[On Birds collected in Yucatan and Southern Mexico. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1890, p. 201.]

Mr. Stone gives us an account of the birds collected by Mr. F. C. Baker and himself during a recent expedition into Yucatan and Southern Mexico, which was conducted by Prof. Heilprin of Philadelphia. Yucatan was visited in February and March, in the dry season, and examples of 96 species were obtained. Most of these are well known, but some useful field-notes are given. *Icterus gularis*, not mentioned in Boucard's list of Gaumer's birds (P. Z. S. 1883, p. 434), was found "abundant." "It is strange that the species (of *Icterus*) described by Boucard as abundant were not seen at all by us."

The Mexican portion of the series was obtained partly near Orizaba and partly at Chalchicomula, at a height of 4000 feet above that city. Mr. Stone remarks, "The difference between the birds of this vicinity and of the town of Orizaba, 4000 feet below, was at once apparent. Only three species were seen at both places, the Turkey Vulture, Lincoln's Sparrow, and the Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*), and only the last of these was at all abundant at Chalchicomula. Nearly all the species seen belong to more northern genera, and the absence of such birds as the Great-tailed Grackle, Black Vulture, and Red-eyed Cowbird was especially noticeable."

A list is given of 33 species belonging to this high Mexican district, and field-notes are added. In Western Mexico Mr. Baker procured a few other specimens, amongst which were a pair of *Chamaespiza torquata* (cf. Biol. Centr.-Am., Aves, i. p. 399), the habits of which are stated to be those of *Pipilo*.

58. *Studer on the Birds obtained during the Voyage of the 'Gazelle.'*

[Die Forschungsreise S.M.S. 'Gazelle' in den Jahren 1874 bis 1876 unter Kommando des Kapitäns zur See Freiherrn von Schleinitz, herausgegeben von dem Hydrographischen Amt des Reichs-Marine-Amtes. III. Theil. Zoologie und Geologie. Mit 33 Tafeln. 4to. Berlin: 1889.]

A handsome volume, prepared by Dr. Th. Studer of Berne, gives us a summary of the researches in zoology and geology made during the voyage of the German S.S. 'Gazelle,' which

took the astronomers to Kerguelen's Land for the transit of 1875. The ornithological results of the voyage were given by Dr. Cabanis and Herr Reichenow in a paper published in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' in 1876 (*cf.* Ibis, 1877, p. 239). But further details will be found in this volume, which, moreover, contains coloured figures of *Trichoglossus flavicans*, *Ptilopus insolitus*, and *Phalacrocorax verrucosus* (apparently copied from the 'Journal für Ornithologie'), and six plates devoted to the development of *Megapodius eremita*, *Halodroma urinatrix*, *Eudyptes chrysocome*, and other species.

59. *Thompson on the Systematic Position of Hesperornis.*

[Studies from the Museum of Zoology in University College, Dundee. Edited by D'Arcy W. Thompson.—Vol. I. No. 10. On the Systematic Position of *Hesperornis*. By Prof. D'Arcy W. Thompson. 4to. Dundee: 1890.]

For some years in his laboratory the author of this memoir has been accustomed to teach that "the group of Toothed Birds, or *Odontornithes*, of Marsh is an unreal and illusory one." He now sets to work to prove this by instituting a "close comparison, bone by bone, of the osteological characters of *Hesperornis* and *Colymbus*." He comes to the conclusion "that, from purely osteological characters, the wide difference between *Hesperornis* and any Ratite, and its close resemblance to *Colymbus* or to *Podiceps*, is clear and patent. From these characters it is a Colymbine bird, of great size and prodigious swimming power, which, while losing its wings and sternal keel, and otherwise somewhat modifying its shoulder-girdle, as the faculty of flight degenerated, has retained in its brain-case, its palate, its mandibles, its vertebræ, its sternum, pelvis, and hind limbs, resemblance almost amounting to identity with the existing *Colymbi*."

60. *Townsend on Birds collected by the U.S. Fish-Commission S.S. 'Albatross.'*

[Scientific Results of Explorations by the U.S. Fish-Commission Steamer 'Albatross.'—XIV. Birds from the Coast of Western North

America and adjacent Islands, collected in 1888-89, with Descriptions of new Species. By Charles H. Townsend. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiii. p. 131.]

In the winter of 1889 the U.S. Fish-Commission S.S. 'Albatross' explored the islands on the coast of California, besides visiting many spots on the mainland, and made a collection of 226 birds, which are referable to 92 species and subspecies. Five new species and six new subspecies are now shortly described, namely, *Speotyto rostrata*, *Zenaidura clarionensis*, *Troglodytes tanneri*, and *Puffinus auricularis*, from Clarion Island; *Oceanodroma socorroensis* from Socorro Island; *Amphispiza belli cinerea* from Lower California; *Otocorys alpestris pallida* from Sonora; *Melospiza fasciata graminea*, from Santa Barbara Island; *Helminthophila celata sordida*, *Melospiza fasciata clementæ*, and *Otocorys alpestris insularis* from San Clemente Island. The last-named subspecies was also found very abundantly in San Nicolas, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa Islands. A specimen of *Halocyptena microsoma*, Coues, was obtained in Panama Bay. This is the second example obtained of this Petrel (*cf.* Ibis, 1868, p. 345).

61. *Wilson and Evans on Hawaiian Birds.*

[Aves Hawaiienses: the Birds of the Sandwich Islands. By Scott B. Wilson, F.Z.S., assisted by A. H. Evans, M.A., F.Z.S. Part I. Dec. 1890. 4to. London: 1890. R. H. Porter.]

We are much pleased to welcome the first part of Mr. Scott Wilson's promised volume on the avifauna of the Hawaiian Islands, and trust he will be able, with the assistance of Mr. Evans, to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion. It will be very convenient to have the great advances which Mr. Wilson has undoubtedly made in our knowledge of this most interesting subject incorporated with all that was previously known of it.

Mr. Frohawk's plates will give pleasure to all who study them. They represent the following species:—*Phæornis obscura*, *Acrulocercus nobilis*, *Loxops coccinea*, *L. flammea*,

Chrysomitridops cæruleorostris, *Loxioides bailleui*, *Acrulocercus braccatus*, and *Vestiaria coccinea*.

We may remark that it is quite unnecessary, nay, very objectionable, to quote printers' errors as "synonyms"—there are enough synonyms without them. Moreover, the specific name "*bailleui*" is spelt correctly on the plate referred to (Ibis, 1879, pl. ii.), so that the quotation of it (under *Loxioides bailleui*) is not exact.

62. *Winge on the Birds of Denmark.*

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1888–89. 6te og 7de Aarsberetning om danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vidensk. Meddel. fra d. Naturh. Forening Kjöbenhavn, 1890, pp. 54, 106.]

[Fifth Report on Birds in Danmark, 1887. Compiled by Herluf Winge. Ornis, iv. p. 369.]

Since the death of Oluf Winge, his brother, Herluf Winge, has become our chief authority on the birds of Denmark, and students of the European Ornis should consult the carefully drawn reports of which he has kindly sent us copies. Great use, it will be seen, is made in Denmark, as regards ornithology, of the numerous Light-Stations round the coast.

63. *Zehntner on the Development of Cypselus melba.*

[Beiträge zur Entwicklung von *Cypselus melba*, nebst biologischen und osteologischen Details.—Inaugural-Dissertation zur Erlangung der Doktorwürde vorgelegt der hohen philosophischen Fakultät der Universität Bern von Leo Zehntner. 8vo. Berlin: 1890.]

The author very appropriately selected *Cypselus melba* and its development as a thesis for his dissertation on proceeding to the Doctorate of Philosophy at the University of Berne. An excellent memoir is the result, giving us first full biological details upon this well-known inhabitant of the Minster-tower of the Swiss capital, and then chapters on its osteology and the development of its embryo. The latter is of especial interest on account of the abnormality of the typical Cypselidæ as regards the phalanges of the hinder extremities. This is well explained and illustrated by numerous figures. The most salient points of this thesis were given in a commu-

nication to the 'Zoologischer Anzeiger' in 1889, which was re-published in this journal (*cf.* Ibis, 1889, p. 196). We have now a more complete account, and may hope to have the author's matured judgment upon the systematic position of the Cypselidæ on a future occasion.

XXVIII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

THE following letters have been received, addressed to the Editor of 'The Ibis':—

Royal Zoological Museum, Dresden,
Dec. 3rd, 1890.

SIR,—In 'The Ibis' (1890, p. 413) I have mentioned a young specimen of *Merops* from the north coast of New Britain, which I referred to *Merops philippinus*, though I remarked that its dimensions are smaller, and especially that the bill is very short. Count Salvadori, in a recent letter to me, expressed the opinion that my identification ought to be reconsidered, as it appeared to him impossible that *M. philippinus* could have so wide a range as to extend to New Britain, though Mr. Ramsay, of Sydney, had written to him that he also had got a specimen of this Bee-eater from New Britain. I have therefore been thoroughly over the matter again, and have convinced myself that the supposition of the learned and keen connoisseur of the Papuan Ornis is well founded. The specimen cannot be considered as belonging to *M. philippinus*.

In comparison with the young specimen of the latter species from Macassar, mentioned *l. c.*, the whole plumage of the specimen from New Britain is less blue-green, and of a lighter, yellowish green; the front yellowish, and the green of the underparts appears to be washed with the brown of the throat. The tail-coverts are lighter blue and the rectrices have an olive-green shade; the base of the primaries and secondaries is brown, and the cinnamonaceous colour on the underside of the first primary is more extended. But the best differential character is, perhaps, the want of the